

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): A thermoformable support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process.

2. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 1, further comprising a second thermoformable support film having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the second support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the second support film is spaced and opposed from the support film.

3. (Original): The invention according to claim 1, further comprising an adhesive film in abutting relationship with the support film.

4. (Original): The invention according to claim 1, further comprising a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with the support film.

5. (Original): The invention according to claim 4, further comprising a release layer in abutting relationship with the support film.

6. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 5, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the polymeric substrate, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the polymeric substrate.

7. (Original): The invention according to claim 6, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the release layer.

8. (Original): The invention according to claim 7, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

9. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 7, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the paint or color-containing film system.

10. (Original): The invention according to claim 1, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film.

11. (Original): The invention according to claim 10, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

12. (Original): The invention according to claim 10, wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system.

13. (Original): The invention according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

14. (Original): The invention according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

15. (Original): A laminate system, comprising:
a thermoformable support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F; and
a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with the support film;
wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support the polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process.

16. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 15, further comprising a second thermoformable support film having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the second support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the second support film is spaced and opposed from the support film.

17. (Original): The invention according to claim 15, further comprising an adhesive film in abutting relationship with the support film.

18. (Original): The invention according to claim 15, further comprising a release layer in abutting relationship with the support film.

19. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 18, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the polymeric substrate, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the polymeric substrate.

20. (Original): The invention according to claim 19, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the release layer.

21. (Original): The invention according to claim 20, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

22. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 20, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the paint or color-containing film system.

23. (Original): The invention according to claim 15, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film.

24. (Original): The invention according to claim 23, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

25. (Original): The invention according to claim 23, wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system.

26. (Original): The invention according to claim 15, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

27. (Original): The invention according to claim 15, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

28. (Currently Amended): A support film system, comprising:
a thermoformable support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F; and
a release layer in abutting relationship with the support film;
wherein the release layer is releasably adhered to a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the polymeric substrate;
wherein the support film is operable to support the polymeric substrate during the thermoforming process.

29. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 28, further comprising a second thermoformable support film having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the second support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the second support film is spaced and opposed from the support film.

30. (Original): The invention according to claim 28, further comprising an adhesive film in abutting relationship with the support film.

31. (Original): The invention according to claim 28, further comprising a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with the release layer.

32. (Original): The invention according to claim 31, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the release layer.

33. (Original): The invention according to claim 32, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

34. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 32, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the paint or color-containing film system.

35. (Original): The invention according to claim 28, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film.

36. (Original): The invention according to claim 35, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

37. (Original): The invention according to claim 35, wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system.

38. (Original): The invention according to claim 28, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

39. (Original): The invention according to claim 28, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

40. (Original): A thermoformable support film system, comprised of:
a support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process; and
a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film;
wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system.

41. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 40, further comprising a second thermoformable support film having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the second support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the second support film is spaced and opposed from the support film.

42. (Original): The invention according to claim 40, further comprising an adhesive film in abutting relationship with the support film.

43. (Original): The invention according to claim 40, further comprising a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with the support film.

44. (Original): The invention according to claim 43, further comprising a release layer in abutting relationship with the support film.

45. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 44, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the polymeric substrate, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the polymeric substrate.

46. (Original): The invention according to claim 44, wherein the paint or color-containing film system is in abutting relationship with the release layer.

47. (Original): The invention according to claim 44, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

48. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 44, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the paint or color-containing film system.

49. (Original): The invention according to claim 40, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

50. (Original): The invention according to claim 40, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

51. (Original): The invention according to claim 40, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

52. (Original): A thermoformable support film system comprised of:
a support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process;
a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film;
an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system; and
wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system.

53. (Original): The invention according to claim 52, further comprising a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with the support film.

54. (Original): The invention according to claim 53, further comprising a release layer in abutting relationship with the support film.

55. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 54, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the polymeric substrate, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the polymeric substrate.

56. (Original): The invention according to claim 54, wherein the paint or color-containing film system is in abutting relationship with the release layer.

57. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 54, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the paint or color-containing film system.

58. (Original): The invention according to claim 52, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

59. (Original): The invention according to claim 52, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

60. (Original): The invention according to claim 52, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

61. (Currently Amended): A method for forming a support film system, comprising:

providing a thermoformable support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F;

providing a release layer in abutting relationship with the support film;

wherein the release layer is releasably adhered to a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the polymeric substrate; and

wherein the support film is operable to support the polymeric substrate during the thermoforming process.

62. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 61, further comprising providing a second thermoformable support film having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the second support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the second support film is spaced and opposed from the support film.

63. (Original): The invention according to claim 61, further comprising providing an adhesive film in abutting relationship with the support film.

64. (Original): The invention according to claim 61, further comprising providing a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with either the support film or the release layer.

65. (Original): The invention according to claim 61, further comprising providing a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with either the support film or the release layer.

66. (Original): The invention according to claim 65, further comprising providing an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

67. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 65, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the paint or color-containing film system.

68. (Original): The invention according to claim 65, wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system.

69. (Original): The invention according to claim 61, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film.

70. (Original): The invention according to claim 69, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

71. (Original): The invention according to claim 69, wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system.

72. (Original): The invention according to claim 61, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

73. (Original): The invention according to claim 61, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

74. (Original): A method for forming a laminate system, comprising:
providing a thermoformable support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F;
providing a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with the support film; and
wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support the polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process.

75. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 74, further comprising providing a second thermoformable support film having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the second support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the second support film is spaced and opposed from the support film.

76. (Original): The invention according to claim 74, further comprising providing an adhesive film in abutting relationship with the support film.

77. (Original): The invention according to claim 74, further comprising a release layer in abutting relationship with either the support film or the polymeric substrate.

78. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 77, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the polymeric substrate, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the polymeric substrate.

79. (Original): The invention according to claim 77, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with either the release layer or the polymeric substrate.

80. (Original): The invention according to claim 79, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

81. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 79, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the paint or color-containing film system.

82. (Original): The invention according to claim 74, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film.

83. (Original): The invention according to claim 82, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

84. (Original): The invention according to claim 82, wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system.

85. (Original): The invention according to claim 74, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

86. (Original): The invention according to claim 74, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

87. (Currently Amended): A method for forming a laminate system, comprising:
providing a thermoformable support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F;

providing a release layer in abutting relationship with the support film;

providing a surfacing film system in abutting relationship with the release layer;

providing a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with the surfacing film system;

wherein the release layer is releasably adhered to the surfacing film system during the thermoforming process, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the surfacing film system; and

wherein the support film is operable to support the polymeric substrate during the thermoforming process.

88. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 87, further comprising providing a second thermoformable support film having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the second support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the second support film is spaced and opposed from the support film.

89. (Original): The invention according to claim 87, further comprising providing an adhesive film in abutting relationship with the support film.

90. (Original): The invention according to claim 87, further comprising providing an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the surfacing film system.

91. (Original): The invention according to claim 87, wherein the surfacing film system comprises a paint or color-containing film system.

92. (Original): The invention according to claim 87, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

93. (Original): The invention according to claim 87, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

94. (Original): A method for forming a support film system, comprising:
providing a thermoformable support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F;
providing a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film; and
wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support the paint or color-containing film system during a thermoforming process.

95. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 94, further comprising providing a second thermoformable support film having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the second support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the second support film is spaced and opposed from the support film.

96. (Original): The invention according to claim 94, further comprising providing an adhesive film in abutting relationship with the support film.

97. (Original): The invention according to claim 94, further comprising providing a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with the support film.

98. (Original): The invention according to claim 97, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

99. (Original): The invention according to claim 97, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

100. (Original): The invention according to claim 97, further comprising providing a release layer in abutting relationship with either the paint or color-containing film system or the polymeric substrate.

101. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 100, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the paint or color-containing film system.

102. (Original): The invention according to claim 94, wherein the paint or color-containing film system is in abutting relationship with the polymeric substrate.

103. (Original): The invention according to claim 94, further comprising providing an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

104. (Original): A method for forming a support film system, comprising:
providing a thermoformable support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F;
providing a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film;

providing an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system; and

wherein the support film is operable to releasably adhere to and support the paint or color-containing film system during a thermoforming process.

105. (Original): The invention according to claim 104, further comprising providing a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with the support film.

106. (Original): The invention according to claim 105, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

107. (Original): The invention according to claim 105, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

108. (Original): The invention according to claim 105, further comprising providing a release layer in abutting relationship with either the paint or color-containing film system or the polymeric substrate.

109. (Currently Amended): The invention according to claim 108, wherein the release layer is operable to releasably adhere to the paint or color-containing film system, wherein the release layer is operable to be peeled away from the paint or color-containing film system.

110. (New): A thermoformable support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the support film is releasably adhered to and supports a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process.

111. (New): The invention according to claim 110, further comprising a second thermoformable support film having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the second support film is releasably adhered to and supports a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the second support film is spaced and opposed from the support film.

112. (New): The invention according to claim 110, further comprising an adhesive film in abutting relationship with the support film.

113. (New): The invention according to claim 110, further comprising a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with the support film.

114. (New): The invention according to claim 113, further comprising a release layer in abutting relationship with the support film.

115. (New): The invention according to claim 114, wherein the release layer is releasably adhered to the polymeric substrate.

116. (New): The invention according to claim 115, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the release layer.

117. (New): The invention according to claim 116, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

118. (New): The invention according to claim 116, wherein the release layer is releasably adhered to the paint or color-containing film system.

119. (New): The invention according to claim 110, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film.

120. (New): The invention according to claim 119, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

121. (New): The invention according to claim 119, wherein the support film is releasably adhered to the paint or color-containing film system.

122. (New): The invention according to claim 110, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

123. (New): The invention according to claim 110, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

124. (New): The invention according to claim 110, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

125. (New): A method for forming a support film system, comprising:
providing a thermoformable support film comprised of a material having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F;
providing a release layer in abutting relationship with the support film;
wherein the release layer is releasably adhered to a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process; and
wherein the support film is operable to support the polymeric substrate during the thermoforming process.

126. (New): The invention according to claim 125, further comprising providing a second thermoformable support film having a tensile strength greater than 0.5 pli at 300°F, wherein the second support film is releasably adhered to and supports a polymeric substrate during a thermoforming process, wherein the second support film is spaced and opposed from the support film.

127. (New): The invention according to claim 125, further comprising providing an adhesive film in abutting relationship with the support film.

128. (New): The invention according to claim 125, further comprising providing a polymeric substrate in abutting relationship with either the support film or the release layer.

129. (New): The invention according to claim 125, further comprising providing a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with either the support film or the release layer.

130. (New): The invention according to claim 129, further comprising providing an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

131. (New): The invention according to claim 129, wherein the release layer is releasably adhered to the paint or color-containing film system.

132. (New): The invention according to claim 129, wherein the support film is releasably adhered to the paint or color-containing film system.

133. (New): The invention according to claim 125, further comprising a paint or color-containing film system in abutting relationship with the support film.

134. (New): The invention according to claim 133, further comprising an adhesive film system in abutting relationship with the paint or color-containing film system.

135. (New): The invention according to claim 133, wherein the support film is releasably adhered to the paint or color-containing film system.

136. (New): The invention according to claim 125, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into an automotive component.

137. (New): The invention according to claim 125, wherein the polymeric substrate is formed into a component having at least one curved surface.

138. (New): The invention according to claim 125, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

139. (New): The invention according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

140. (New): The invention according to claim 15, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

141. (New): The invention according to claim 28, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

142. (New): The invention according to claim 40, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

143. (New): The invention according to claim 52, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

144. (New): The invention according to claim 61, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

145. (New): The invention according to claim 74, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

146. (New): The invention according to claim 87, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

147. (New): The invention according to claim 97, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.

148. (New): The invention according to claim 105, wherein the polymeric substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, ABS, and combinations thereof.